

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5819

S E C R E T AMMAN 6668

NODIS//CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, JO, SA, SY, US, XF

SUBJ: LETTER FROM KING FOR SECRETARY

REF: AMMAN 6620 AND AMMAN 6642

1. THIS TELEGRAM DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST PORTIONS OF LETTER (TEXT SEPTTEL) WHICH RIFAI HANDED ME THIS MORNING FROM KING DATED OCTOBER 3. WHAT KING SAYS AND PROPOSES WAS PREFIGURED IN EARLIER MESSAGES (REFTEL) FROM AMMAN ON THE BASIS OF RIFAI'S READOUT TO ME OF HIS TALKS WITH KING KHALID AND ASAD.

2. ESSENTIALLY KING REPORTS ON CONVERSATIONS IN TERMS ALREADY FAMILIAR-- KHALID'S INTEREST IN SENDING RIFAI TO DAMASCUS, AND ASAD'S VERY HARD LINE RESPONSE. KING URGES ON US STIMULATION OF UNILATERAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL MOVE ON GOLAN. THIS IS AN IDEA RIFAI FIRST BROACHED TO ME FOLLOWING HIS TALK WITH ASAD. I CANNOT TELL HOW MUCH ASAD HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE IDEA OR IN WHAT WAY IT HAS BEEN CHECKED OUT WITH HIM. RIFAI SAYS HE HAS REPORTED TO KING KHALID ON HIS VISIT WITH ASAD, BUT IN ORDER NOT TO DISTURB SAUDI-SYRIAN RELATIONS HE HAS ROUNDED OFF SOME OF THE SHARP EDGES.

3. RIFAI ALSO HAS BRIEFED ME ON CONTINUING EGYPTIAN CONTACTS. ASHRAF MARWAN HAS BEEN ON THE PHONE. FIRST HE CALLED TO INVITE, IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S NAME, RIFAI TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT IN EGYPT AS SOON AS

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POSSIBLE. RIFAI CALLED BACK AFTER CONSULTING KING AND SAID THAT

THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MUBARAK HERE FIRST. MARWAN CALLED AGAIN THIS MORNING, RIFAI SAID, AND INDICATED THAT MUBARAK IS AN AWFULLY BUSY MAN RIGHT NOW AND THAT SADAT WOULD LIKE TO SEE RIFAI FOR JUST A FEW HOURS AND THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW RIFAI COULD REFUSE, GIVEN THE FACT THAT RIFAI HAS JUST BEEN TO SEE KHALID AND ASAD.

4. RIFAI THEN SAID THAT HE WONDERED HOW WE WERE DOING WITH THE CONGRESS

AND WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT THERE WAS ALSO A POLITICAL COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO EGYPT TO WORK TOGETHER TO ASSURE ARAB SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT, AS THE EGYPTIANS WERE NOW TELLING JORDAN. I SAID I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY SUCH COMMITMENT. RIFAI THEN SAID THAT STORY PRODUCED HERE IN LOCAL PAPER THAT THERE WOULD BE A FOUR-POWER MEETING SOON IN RIYADH WAS EGYPTIAN INSPIRED AND REALLY HAD HURT HIM. SIMILARLY HE DID NOT MIND GOING TO SEE SADAT PERSONALLY, AND HE WOULD TELL SADAT EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD FOUND ON HIS TRIPS, BUT HE DID NOT SEE THE TRIP ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING POSITIVE AND IT QUITE POSSIBLY COULD BE DESTRUCTIVE IF HE HAD TO CONVEY THE FULL FLAVOR OF ASAD'S PRESENT INTRANSIGENCE. IN ANY EVENT, IF HE GOES TO EGYPT, IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL AFTER THE COMING HOLIDAYS.

5. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT CAIRO AND DAMASCUS.
PICKERING

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